

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing with regards to Agenda item 5h of your meeting on 11/3/2020. This item is regarding the rezoning of 10400 West Road to allow marijuana cultivation, which actually rezones 14 parcels. This address is right at the head of Mohawk Trail, the road on which I live. Our property is already surrounded on three sides by marijuana growers. I am strongly opposed to allowing rezoning so that even more marijuan cultivation can happen right around me. Marijuana cultivation has these detractors for the neighborhood:

1. Light pollution (one of the joys of living in the countryside and in this valley is the ability to see starlight). The light pollution from grow lights inside grow green houses would kill off the ability to see the night sky. We could live in a city if we wanted to live amongst so much light pollution.
2. Crime -- I was walking in the area between me and my neighbor yesterday to measure a setback. My neighbor cultivates marijuana. I found a baggie of pot laying in the middle of the easement, right where small children often play and ride bikes. This is ridiculous. Also, there is a noted correlation between crime and the growing of marijuana. Our own sheriff even spoke about it. Especially during harvest time, people rob growers for money or crops. I live peacefully on our property with 3 elders and multiple animals, and have already had to install cameras, motion sensors, motion lights, and other forms of property security because of this rise in crime (there was an active shooting just 1/2 mile down the road from us on Laughlin directly related to two people trying to rob a marijuana grower). I moved to this area for its peace and tranquility of country living, and so I could ride my horses. My family and animals will certainly not feel safe with increased crime.
3. Smell -- When we first moved out here we could not figure out if the smell was actual skunks or marijuana plants. Now we smell that skunky marijuana smell all the time, especially at daylight and dusk. It makes it unpleasant to sit outside or even open windows.
4. Water and electrical use -- Cultivation of marijuana requires a great deal of both. As regular vegetable growers, in times of short rainfall we are rationed on water. I can't see how adding even more use of water, when it is already so lacking in this state and in this area, is a good idea.
5. Noise - There are often fans in use when marijuana is being cultivated. The constant noise pollution is as bad as the light pollution.

There are parcels already zoned for marijuana cultivation. If you rezone these parcels, you open the door for easier future rezoning of residential properties, in which case our entire neighborhood and street will just be filled with growers. People have a right to live peacefully without purposely inviting activities that generate crime into their neighborhoods. Looking at Google Earth gives me a good idea of who around me grows pot (or just look at fence heights of the neighbors!). Everyone has a right to earn a living. However, as with other businesses, there are areas dedicated to and zoned for certain types of industry. Please don't further ruin our neighborhood by granting this rezoning request.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Yeh